

Community SERVICES

Fall 2008

City of Wilmington Public Information Report

Contacts:

Community Development

Code Enforcement

910.341.3266

Housing

910.341.7836

Homebuyer classes...

Classes are held the 3rd Friday of each month from 9am to 3pm in the Human Resources training room 2nd floor City/County building, 320 Chestnut Street. Call 341.7836 to register.

or . . .

Need a speaker?...

Staff from Community Services are available to meet with your church, business, or organization to share information on our homeownership and home repair programs, code enforcement, and technical assistance for non-profit organizations.

To schedule a speaking engagement or to host a homebuyer education course, please contact us at 341-7836.

Community Services

305 Chestnut Street

2nd Floor

Wilmington, NC 28401

910.341.7836

910.341.7802 fax

TTY Relay 711

Code Enforcement and Housing Programs

The Code Enforcement and Housing sections of the Community Services Department help improve housing and provide ways to make home ownership more affordable. Code Enforcement works closely with the Wilmington Police Department to enforce city laws and ordinances that affect not only property and appearances of our neighborhoods, but also prevention of crimes in our community.

City offers Three Affordable Loan Programs...

The City of Wilmington offers three affordable loans programs to city residents who meet specific criteria. If you want to buy a home, repair an existing one or even start a small business, we can help...Contact us today to see if you qualify.

Buy a Home...

The Home Ownership Pool Program offers affordable loans for low to moderate income households looking to achieve the benefit of home ownership within the city limits of Wilmington. **341.7836.**

Repair a Home...

The Homeowner Rehabilitation Loan Program offers affordable loans for city residents who have owned and occupied their home a minimum of 12 months and meet specified income limits. These loans may be used to make needed repairs to your home, including updating of wiring, plumbing, and heating and air systems. **341.7836.**

Start a Small Business...

Economic Development Loan Fund Program loans are geared toward small business startups or expansions. Maximum loan amount is \$25,000 at a fixed rate of 50% of prime for up to 60 months. Proceeds can be used for inventory, equipment, working capital, or property purchase. **341.7836 or 343.1069**



**Call today for more
information about these
affordable loan programs.
910.341.7836**

How code enforcement works

The city's Code Enforcement officers investigate complaints and help home owners comply with city laws and ordinances. These codes may seem strict, but are in place to help ensure a better quality of life for our citizens.

1. A citizen makes a complaint, or Code Enforcement officers cite a violation of city code.
2. Generally, after a code violation complaint is received, an officer is dispatched within 48 hours for an initial inspection.
3. If a violation is discovered, the property owner will be issued a Notice of Violation and will have 15 days to bring their property into compliance for a public nuisance violation, or 30 days for a zoning violation.
4. Another inspection is then conducted to ensure that the property is compliant with city code.

5. If the property is still not compliant, owners are issued a fine of at least \$100 per day until the property is brought into compliance.
6. If the city must take care of the nuisance, a lien may be placed on the property for any fees incurred.

For more information, call **341.3266**.



Four ways to keep crime out of your neighborhood

The appearance of property can affect criminal activity in an area, as well as property values. Here are just a few ordinances, or laws, that Code Enforcement officers enforce to help prevent crime and preserve quality of life in our neighborhoods:

1. **Graffiti** - Graffiti must be removed or covered by the property owner within 15 days. One-time grant funding is available for low-income property owners to help with graffiti removal costs.
2. **Abandoned or junk vehicles** - city code prohibits junk or abandoned vehicles left on private property.
3. **Property maintenance** - property owners are required to keep property free from trash and garbage and to keep grass no more than 8 inches high.



4. **Housing** - Homes must be maintained for safety and structural integrity and cannot pose health or safety risks from dilapidation, decay or unsanitary conditions.

All of these violations could result in fines of \$100 per day if not corrected. For more information call **341.3266**.

Code Enforcement Questions

When are weeds too high?

Uncontrolled growth of weeds or grass to a height of 8 inches or more is considered a public nuisance.

Is a car without current tags a violation?

Although it is illegal to operate a motor vehicle on public streets without current tags, it is not a code violation to have a automobile parked on private property without current tags. However, abandoned or junk vehicles are prohibited.

Is a landlord required to make repairs to rental property?

It is the responsibility of the owner to keep the property free of minimum housing code violations.

How many unrelated people may live together?

No more than 3 unrelated people may occupy a dwelling.

Can I have signs in the right of way or on poles?

The placement of any sign in the public right of way or on any utility pole is prohibited.

To learn more, contact Code Enforcement at 341-3266.

